

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2018

KIND OF MEETING: BUDGET

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DAVID B. HARRIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES E. BULT
MICHAEL KENNEY (*Arrived at 6:09 p.m.*)
SCOTT SWARTZ
TRACY REX

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY:

COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER

OTHERS: KEN HOLMES, SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
DAWNE KELLY, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE
SUPERVISOR
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS

S. Harris called the October 17, 2018 Budget Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Highway

A3310.4 Traffic Control Contractual: C. Bult asked why no dollar amounts were entered for prior years. P. Harter said the amounts had been removed by K. Holmes as they did not match the categories he normally budgeted for. He added the amounts per vendor were present when the budget had been sent to Mr. Holmes. K. Holmes said he had removed the amounts to budget using general categories rather than vendors. He explained he utilizes so many different vendors that depending on the appropriations code, it could make the budget several pages long. He noted, in the past, the budget had been group by category and he was under the impression that the numbers that he omitted would be completed by P. Harter. P. Harter apologized and said he would be more diligent next time. C. Bult asked if all the \$7,500.00 had been expended for 2018. K. Holmes said it had. It was utilized to replace road and speed limit signs which are purchased from Corcraft and the prison system.

A5010.4 Superintendent of Highways Contractual: K. Holmes explained he had trimmed this budget as much as possible. He noted amounts for cell phones, Staples and postage had remained the same and would likely all be utilized for 2018. C. Kenney asked, as no totals were present from the previous years, where the \$10,000.00 increase came from 2018 to 2019. K. Holmes said there was a two percent increase that had been applied to the personnel portion of his budget. C. Bult said, after reviewing his 2018 budget binder, that the contractual amount for 2018 was \$8,045.00. This meant there was only a request of a \$2,500.00 increase between personnel and contractual for 2019.

A5132.4 Town Garage Contractual: C. Bult asked why there was such a large decrease in the capital charges and water usage. P. Harter said there had been a change in units based on the Village of Castleton and they had started to utilize money from out of district users, private water sales and leftover assets to decrease the capital charges.

DB5110.4 Road Maintenance Contractual: K. Holmes explained he was able to decrease the requested amount for culvert and drainage supplies and was able to better estimate the vehicle fuel line. He noted they had seen an increase in the price of topsoil but said he did not foresee going over budget for 2018. C. Kenney asked where the increase for the contractual had been derived from. K. Holmes said the increase for the topsoil. C. Kenney noted this appropriation code had been generalized and items were put into groups rather than sorted by vendors. He felt this was easier to understand but still needed to see the previous amounts. P. Harter said the previous Supervisor had requested the budget be more specialized than generalized, listing vendors to see where items were purchased. He said there was a bit of confusion reverting back to grouped items which is why K. Holmes removed the amounts. C. Swartz and C. Bult asked that the previous year's amounts be added back in for 2020. Mr. Harter agreed.

DB5112 Road Repairs & Maintenance: K. Holmes said no change had been made to road paving and street treatment. C. Bult said the only change was to personal section. K. Holmes said yes.

DB5130.2 Machinery Equipment: C. Swartz asked if they were currently using the sewer truck from the Village of Castleton. K. Holmes said they were but noted it was getting worn out. He felt since they were in an off year for truck purchases, it would save the town money down the road to purchase their own trailer mounted sewer jet. The sewer jet had a higher water capacity and was able to create heat and steam to thaw out frozen pipes in the winter. He also noted that the current street roller, which was from 1998, was becoming worn out and he was requesting to replace it in 2019. C. Bult asked if the highway was still using Mooradians for the reconditioning of the dump truck bodies. K. Holmes said he had found a different company in Green Island who had a better quality and price.

DB5140.4 Brush & Weeds Contractual: C. Bult asked if the large increase for hay and grass seed was for restoring road shoulders after paving. K. Holmes said yes and added it also covers repairs to lawns that are damaged during the paving process. C. Bult asked why nothing was budgeted for fuel. K. Holmes said it had been rolled into street maintenance. P. Harter said it would be charged to DB5110 and then dispersed to other codes as it was used. He noted the fuel cost for DB5142 was a bit high and suggested a portion could be used to cover DB5140 if needed. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to add \$5,000.00 to the contractual fuel line for DB5140 and remove \$5,000.00 from the DB5142 contractual fuel.**

DB5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual: C. Swartz asked why there was a noticeable increase in the salt line. K. Holmes said the price of salt was fluctuating and was running around \$61.00 per ton. C. Swartz asked where the salt generally comes from. K. Holmes said usually Troy but it had been shipped in from the mines before. C. Bult noted there was

a decrease in the road sand line. K. Holmes said they use a salt/sand mix at the end of the season to extend the salt supply but said it results in more required cleaning in the spring. He said it also had a negative impact on the MS-4; therefore, they were trying to minimize the use.

Sweets Crossing Bridge: C. Bult said they had discussed applying for grant fund to make repairs to the bridge on Sweets Crossing Road and asked if there was any progress. K. Holmes said he had not heard anything but noted there was a change in management. He said he would check the status of their application.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) Maintenance: C. Rex asked if the board decided to opt in for the maintenance of the trail, would that need to be budgeted under the highway. P. Harter said he had been conducting research regarding the Parkland Fund that was established in 1989. He was not sure where the funds could be utilized as all he could locate was when the fund was created. He said he had contacted the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) for an explanation and was awaiting a return phone call. C. Rex asked if the funds could be used for mowing. P. Harter said the funds could be used for park land but was not specific. C. Kenney said he was hopeful it could be used for salaries; however, he was not sure it should be run by the highway. He felt it may be better suited to be run by Parks and Recreation but said further discussion was needed. C. Rex said she wanted to make sure it was budgeted for, if needed. C. Swartz asked if Mr. Beers had been sent the proposal yet. S. Harris said no.

K. Holmes said he had reviewed a budget from 2015 which showed all the categories grouped. He felt the format was easier to complete. C. Bult asked if it was known what the increase was for the Highway Department from 2018 to 2019. P. Harter said he did not have the figures for equipment or contractual; however, the salaries budget would show the increases for the A and B Funds. He noted the budget analysis would give the increase total for each fund as well. C. Bult said it would be easier to understand the budget knowing what the percentage of increase or decrease was for each department. P. Harter said he could add that for next year.

Transfer Station

A8160.2 & .4 Refuse & Garbage: C. Swartz asked if a container had been purchased in 2018. B. Goodall said he was waiting on quotes before purchasing. C. Bult said he noticed a container had been budgeted for 2018 and 2019. C. Swartz asked if he planned to add or replace two containers. B. Goodall said yes as some were becoming worn out and added he was waiting to get the best price depending on the price of steel. C. Bult asked why there was an increase in the fuel line. He wondered if there were more runs being made. B. Goodall explained the Town of Nassau was currently borrowing the truck as theirs is out of service. He said they were fueling the truck after each use but noted an increase in fuel costs had been seen for 2018. S. Harris said he had spoken to Mr. Fleming from Nassau who said they were working on a grant to purchase a new truck. C. Kenney asked what the condition of the truck was. B. Goodall said it was in good working condition. C. Swartz noticed the amount requested for signs was \$400.00; however, only \$40.00 had been spent in the past. He wondered if the amount could be decreased. B. Goodall said it depended

on the weather which would determine if signs needed replacement. He said the line could be adjusted to \$200.00. C. Kenney asked if any of the \$25,350.00 budgeted for 2018 Transfer Station repairs had been used. B. Goodall said no. He explained he had anticipated moving the electrical as well as purchasing five covers for the containers. He said, upon purchasing and use of one cover, it was determined that it would not be durable enough and was not conducive for compacting using the backhoe. As for the electrical, he was having a hard time locating an electrician. C. Bult said he could recommend an individual to contact regarding the improvement to the electrical. C. Swartz asked why the amount budgeted for Curtis Printing was so high. B. Goodall said the amount was incorrect and should be \$400.00 instead of \$4,000.00. This would adjust the contractual from \$72,365.00 to \$68,765.00. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$3,600.00 from A8160.4.**

A8160.1 Refuse & Garbage Personnel: C. Rex asked if Mr. Goodall was requesting to hire an additional employee. B. Goodall said yes. He explained the duties at the transfer station were based on a two worker system and noted if one person leaves to make a run or is down at the brush pile, the other person is left to man the shack and is only able to assist residents as they enter. This limits the number of tasks that can be accomplished in any given day. He mentioned he would be willing to forgo another employee if the board would consider discontinuing the intake of electronics or brush. He said, under the new NYS DEC regulations, he was limited to accepting brush less than four inches in diameter. An issue had come up as the highway would bring in brush over the limit and residents were complaining. C. Swartz asked if the highway brush could be deposited in a separate location. B. Goodall said no. He added residents were not charged for depositing brush or electronics; however, they still cost the town for the labor. C. Bult asked if the new employee would be full-time. B. Goodall said they could be part-time or a non-union employee. C. Swartz warned that a non-union worker would be limited on the duties they could perform. He then asked if that would eliminate overtime. B. Goodall said no, due to specific circumstances with the union. He hoped that the overtime could be minimized but noted he had concerns about hiring, based on the highway union contract. In the event they pull a laborer from the highway, there would be no savings. C. Bult asked the number of hours a part-time person could work before benefits needed to be given. B. Goodall said, according to the union contract, the town could only utilize a part-time person for up to 150 hours. C. Bult asked if an Operator 2 could be added for the highway and utilized when needed. C. Kenney said there would be an issue with Saturdays as the union contract dictates the work week as Monday through Friday. C. Bult suggested creating a position as hourly within the union for B. Goodall and then bring in a part-time employee to punching transfer station tickets only. C. Kenney recommended the facility move towards compacting. C. Bult said if they went ahead with installing solar at the transfer station that would bring the three phase electricity close enough to install a compactor and bring a laborer in to operate. C. Rex asked, when requests are made to add employees, if the amount for benefits is also factored into the town budget. P. Harter said yes. C. Kenney said there were too many unknown variables and recommended they hold off adding the second employee. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove the second Operator 2 from A8160.1 and A8189.1 totaling \$35,680.00.**

A8189 Recycling: C. Kenney said he felt the amount budgeted for single stream recycling

was too high. B. Goodall stated, in the past, they had been paid for recycling; however, they were now being charged for recycling. C. Bult asked how other municipalities handle recycling. P. Harter said East Greenbush uses a sticker that costs \$95.00 which must be attached to a punch card. He said it was necessary for the town to find revenue to cover the added cost. C. Kenney warned that residents already felt they paid a large amount in taxes and would be unhappy with the added cost. C. Bult said an easier process was needed to verify residency. He recommended the task of verifying residency be put onto the Town Clerk's Office. C. Kenney wondered if it would be easier to put restrictions on items. B. Goodall said that idea was applied to the Fall Clean-up event and seemed to work well. C. Swartz suggested re-implementing the use of stickers on vehicles to confirm residency. B. Goodall said the system had not worked in the past as a previous Supervisor had allowed use of the transfer station to individuals without stickers. He noted there had not been a rate increase in many years. C. Kenney asked if the current rates were covering his cost. B. Goodall said yes except labor. D. Kelly mentioned a \$5.00 sticker could be issued annually to all residents which would prevent non-residents from using the facility. C. Kenney said it sounded reasonable. **Determination: No changes were made.** C. Bult asked why \$8,000.00 had been budgeted in the fuel line for A8160.4 and A8189.4. B. Goodall said he wanted to be prepared in the event fuel prices sharply increase. With regard to the amount budgeted for single stream recycling, C. Kenney suggested reducing the amount from \$32,500.00 to \$15,000.00. He felt the funds could be pulled from contingency in the event they under budgeted. All board members agreed. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$17,500.00 from A8189.4.**

Solar at the Transfer Station: B. Goodall said the town had a few options with regard to the installation of solar on the landfill cap. They could either purchase the system outright or lease out the land to the solar company. The benefits of leasing would include the leasee (Solar Company) being responsible for the maintenance within the fence and also covering the cost to upgrade the electrical bringing three phase closer. C. Kenney said he was in favor of leasing.

B8160 Household Hazardous Waste: B. Goodall asked for board member input regarding hosting a household hazardous waste day in 2019. C. Kenney noted that they had removed the funding for 2018 with the anticipation of hosting the event in 2019 but wondered if there were other options for residents to dispose of chemicals. B. Goodall said residents could contact a collection company but the cost would be high. C. Kenney asked if it would be possible to join with other municipalities. B. Goodall said the only other municipality he knew of holding the event was Schaghticoke. C. Bult calculated the cost for the event in 2018 and found it to be \$110.00 per resident. He felt it was quite expensive for the small percentage of residents who participated. B. Goodall said the largest expense was advertising. C. Kenney and C. Swartz suggested removing the funds for the event and revisit the idea for the 2020 budget. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to removed \$2,045.00 from B8160.1 and \$14,300.00 remove from B8160.4.**

Plow Truck: B. Goodall explained, with the sale of his old truck, he was without a plow for winter. He suggested using the funds from the sale of the old backhoe and truck to purchase a plow/pusher for the skid steer at the transfer station. C. Bult asked if a snow

blower attachment would be better. B. Goodall said the snow needed to be pushed and did not feel that would work. C. Swartz felt a blade for the backhoe would be more useful. C. Kenney recommended doing further research.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, S. Harris made a motion to adjourn the 10/17/2018 Town Board meeting at 9:07 p.m., seconded by C. Swartz, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk